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Graduate Law Programs, 2011

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ADVANCE YOUR LEGAL EXPERTISE

The legal profession is growing both broader and deeper in this era of internationalization, increasing specialization, and interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional practice. Investing in a concentrated program of post-JD study can be more valuable now than ever before.

Whether you are a recent law school graduate seeking an edge in a challenging job market, or an experienced practitioner looking to consolidate your expertise at the cutting edge of legislative, regulatory and policy developments in your field, you should consider earning a graduate law degree at Golden Gate University. An advanced degree is not just a means to an end; it can equip you to succeed and prepare you to continue learning throughout your professional life.

Our Master of Laws (LLM) program in Taxation, considered one of the best in the nation, has been in existence for over 30 years. We also offer LLM degrees in environmental law, intellectual property law, international legal studies, and US legal studies, and a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) degree in international legal studies. Graduate students can pursue individually customized study plans by taking advantage of our many flexible options, including subject area concentrations within the LLM in US Legal Studies Program. We offer non-degree certificate programs in a variety of subject areas, including estate planning.

At Golden Gate University School of Law, you will find a wide selection of courses, a stimulating intellectual environment, and a diverse and vibrant community including students from across the United States and from more than 60 other countries. You will also find quality student support, including generous financial assistance and a highly trained career services staff. We are particularly proud of a faculty known for excellent classroom teaching, for producing both practical and academic research, and for a wide range of practice and consulting experience. Our institutional and individual networks of relationships cover much of the globe.

Founded in 1901, we are located in the heart of downtown San Francisco. We remain fully committed to our traditions of access, diversity, innovation, and opportunity. To learn more about our programs, please visit our website at www.ggu.edu/law. It would be a pleasure to welcome you into one of our Graduate Law Programs.

Professor Jon H. Sylvester
Associate Dean for Graduate Law Programs
LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
LLM IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
LLM IN TAXATION
LLM IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
LLM IN UNITED STATES LEGAL STUDIES
SJD IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES
LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The LLM in Environmental Law Program combines advanced study of US and international environmental law with practical experience in handling cases through our Environmental Law & Justice Clinic.

You will have the opportunity to work closely with faculty and attorneys in researching, investigating, and preparing publishable papers on environmental topics and can work in government agencies, private firms, and public interest organizations for credit. You might attend a seminar on endangered species in the morning and make an argument concerning the Endangered Species Act before a governmental agency that afternoon.

You can also take an active role in the Law School’s annual Environmental Law Symposium, which in recent years has addressed such topics as California’s renewable energy sector and equitable access to urban parklands. The active, student-run Environmental Law Society sponsors coastal cleanups, panels, lectures featuring environmental experts from the public and private sectors, sales of eco-friendly products, teach-ins, and other programs throughout the year.

“Golden Gate offers many opportunities for students to improve their knowledge. I really liked the academic environment and collegiality, and the faculty truly cares about their students.”

— Vo Thi Phuong Mai
(LLM in Environmental Law 09) and former Visiting Fulbright Scholar, who received the Law School’s 2009 Outstanding LLM Student Award.

“As a lawyer, you learn about a subject in a vacuum, depending on the case on which you happen to be working. I’d always felt an insecurity not knowing more about the big picture of how environmental regulations relate to each other. Golden Gate’s LLM program gives environmental lawyers a better overview of this immense body of law.”

— Robert Byrne
(LLM in Environmental Law 02), Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Natural Resources Law Section, California Department of Justice
CLIMATE CHANGE

Golden Gate Law has been a leader in developing innovative courses on global climate change. Other climate changes classes have covered US litigation, international law and climate change and energy law. Global Warming & Renewable Energy, taught by Professor Alan Ramo, analyzes the potential for renewable energy to reduce global warming.
Our age is dominated by the development, distribution, and protection of information and ideas. Whether you are a recent law school graduate, an attorney from another country, or an experienced US practitioner seeking to broaden your IP knowledge, the LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program offers hands-on practical training. With a choice of more than two dozen IP-related courses, you can draft agreements and litigation documents, learn negotiating tips and strategies, and explore patent, trademark, and copyright law, with courses in both domestic and international IP law. You’ll gain up-to-the-minute training on legal issues relating to the creative arts and such areas as biotechnology, Internet and software law, and content licensing for the Internet.

The active, student-run Intellectual Property Law Association holds many educational, networking, and social programs throughout the year with active participation from alumni of the Golden Gate IP Law Program.

The Intellectual Property Law Center (http://gguiplc.com) brings together students, faculty, lawyers, judges, and IP law scholars to explore developments in the fast-changing world of IP law and policy. The center is led by faculty with extensive IP law experience, assisted by a distinguished advisory board comprised of prominent attorneys from Bay Area IP firms, in-house counsel, federal judges, and lawyers at the US Patent and Trademark Office. With its proximity to Silicon Valley and close ties to California’s entertainment centers, the Law School and IP Law Center offer excellent opportunities for research and training in IP law. The center sponsors a prestigious annual Intellectual Property Law Conference, as well as the Distinguished Intellectual Property Law Speaker Series (which has featured William Patry, senior copyright counsel, Google, Inc.; Professor Pamela Samuelson, UC Berkeley School of Law; and the Hon. Alex Kozinski, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit), an IP Mentorship Program, an IP section in the Law Library, and an alumni network listserv to keep current and former students apprised of IP events and job opportunities.

“The real benefit of the Graduate Law Program at Golden Gate University is how well the coursework stays current and emerging specialty fields receive coverage.”

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

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APPLICATION DEADLINE
▶ Rolling admissions for fall, spring, and summer

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
▶ 24 units

REQUIRED COURSES (9 UNITS)
▶ Intellectual Property Law Survey
▶ Internet & Software Law and at least one of the following:
  — Copyright Law of the US
  — Patent Law of the US
  — Trademark Law of the US

SAMPLE ELECTIVES
▶ Air, Space, & Telecommunications Law
▶ Art & the Law
▶ Biotechnology Law
▶ Cyberlaw & Privacy
▶ International Intellectual Property Law
▶ Negotiating & Drafting Contracts in the Entertainment Business
▶ Sports Law

CORE FACULTY
▶ Associate Professor William Gallagher,
  Co-Director, Intellectual Property Law Center
▶ Professor Marc Greenberg, Co-Director,
  Intellectual Property Law Center
▶ Associate Professor Chester Chuang
LLM IN TAXATION

The Golden Gate Law LLM in Taxation Program, established more than 30 years ago, is one of the preeminent graduate tax law programs in the Western United States and the only such program in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a student in the program, you will gain a solid foundation in the substantive, procedural, and technical aspects of tax practice as well as the policies underlying state and federal tax law.

The program offers advanced instruction in six core areas: business taxes, estate planning, tax litigation and procedure, international taxation, employee benefits, and general taxation. The program is taught by experienced tax practitioners, IRS and government attorneys, and full-time tax professors, and emphasizes both an academic and a practical approach to tax law. You’ll enjoy numerous opportunities for clinical fieldwork, independent study, and extended research and writing for scholarly publication.

PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Golden Gate Law’s LLM in Taxation Program is closely affiliated with the San Francisco and California taxation law communities. Students can participate in job fairs and other professional and social programs of the Bar Association of San Francisco and Bay Area Young Tax Lawyers Association, which are held on and near campus. Many LLM students also participate in the CAPITAL Group, a student organization for business, tax, and real estate law students.

“I began taking a few tax and estate planning courses at GGU without ever intending to actually finish the whole program, but [Adjunct Professor] Jon Vaught’s estate planning classes sealed the deal for me. I had been bitten by the LLM Tax bug. I know for a fact that the LLM in Tax helped me obtain my first estate planning job at the Myers Law Firm in San Francisco. And the GGU community is so supportive – I feel like I am surrounded by a whole team of confidants every time I am faced with a complicated tax matter. GGU rocks!”

— Amir Atashi Rang (LLM in Taxation 04), Principal, Atashi Rang Law Firm
**PRO BONO TAX CLINIC**
The Pro Bono Tax Clinic provides students with the opportunity to assist low-income individuals in certain tax disputes before the California Board of Equalization (BOE). Under the direct supervision of a BOE attorney, students provide legal assistance with claims involving Sales and Use Taxes, Renter’s Assistance Credits, California residency issues, Head of Household status, and other issues. The students meet regularly with a BOE attorney who instructs them about the relevant law and assists them in developing their clients’ factual and legal arguments. The students draft procedural letters, legal memos, and briefs that are submitted to the BOE. Students may also have the opportunity to argue the client’s case at a BOE hearing. All LLM in Taxation students are eligible to participate in the clinic.

**CERTIFICATE IN ESTATE PLANNING**
Practitioners who do not wish to complete the full LLM in Taxation degree may want to consider Golden Gate Law’s Estate Planning Certificate. The Estate Planning Certificate requires 16 units of instruction in the LLM in Taxation Program, 11 from among required courses. Courses must be taken for credit (not as an auditor), and the certificate is available only to students who are not seeking the LLM in Taxation degree.
LLM IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

The LLM in International Legal Studies Program provides in-depth coverage of specialized areas of international and comparative law, with an emphasis on the legal, cultural, sociological, and business activities and interactions among the countries of the Pacific Rim, Europe, and other regions. The LLM program’s primary objectives are to acquaint American students with the legal traditions of other countries and encourage all students to understand similarities and differences in international legal principles.

The curriculum introduces students to the fundamental principles of international law and the current rules governing their application and examines the effect of cultural practices and policies on international trade, human rights, and the environment. Students are exposed to practical applications of negotiating skills and various methods of international dispute settlement.

American and foreign law school graduates may pursue the LLM degree.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Foreign students:
  - Fall admission (encouraged) July 1
  - Spring admission (November 1)
- Domestic students
  - Rolling admissions for fall, spring, and summer

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- 24 units

REQUIRED COURSES

(6 units from two of these five core areas)

- INTERNATIONAL LAW
  - International Law / International Organizations
  - Law of International Armed Conflicts
- PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW
  - Private International Law / Conflict of Laws
- COMPARATIVE LEGAL SYSTEMS
  - Comparative Legal Systems
- INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW
  - International Business Transactions / International Investment Law / International Trade Regulation
- INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION
  - International Dispute Resolution / Pacific Settlement of Disputes Between States / Alternative Dispute Resolution / International Commercial Arbitration

LLM students must take at least one seminar and complete a substantive paper.

SAMPLE ELECTIVES

- Air, Space, and Telecommunications Law
- Comparative Antitrust Law
- Comparative Criminal Procedure
- Immigration Law
- International Human Rights Seminar
- International Intellectual Property Law
- International Trade and Environmental Protection
- Law of the Sea

CORE FACULTY

- Professor Christian Okeke, Director, LLM and SJD in International Legal Studies Programs and Director, Sompong Sucharitkul Center for Advanced International Legal Studies
“My SJD has given me opportunities I would not otherwise have had—such as going to Ukraine this fall on a Senior Fulbright Grant to teach international law. I especially enjoyed the intellectual challenge at Golden Gate, and working on my dissertation research in Spain was especially rewarding. Golden Gate and my SJD have opened new and wonderful experiences to me. I am very grateful.”

— Ruth Astle (JD 74, SJD 08), Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California

SJD IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

The Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) in International Legal Studies is a terminal degree that gives students the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge in a particular area of international law. Students spend at least two semesters in residency and then work with a supervisor and committee to complete a publishable dissertation. Students must have a graduate degree in law (LLM) to be admitted to the SJD program. American and foreign-educated law school graduates may pursue the SJD degree.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The Sompong Sucharitkul Center for Advanced International Legal Studies hosts the prestigious Annual Fulbright Symposium on Current International Legal Issues and publishes a scholarly journal, the Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law. Both LLM and SJD students can participate in the Law School’s Summer Study Abroad Program in Paris, where American students study comparative law together with French students, in courses taught by noted French and American scholars. In addition, Golden Gate Law School student teams have placed highly at the prestigious Jessup International Law Moot Court and Outer Space Moot Court competitions.

Both foreign and American students enjoy many educational, professional and social programs throughout the year that are sponsored by the Golden Gate International Law Students Association, which brings distinguished lecturers and hosts social gatherings. With their diverse faculty and San Francisco location, both the LLM and the SJD in International Legal Studies programs provide unparalleled opportunities for studying international law in an international setting.
LLM IN UNITED STATES LEGAL STUDIES

Since 1997, more than 300 lawyers and law graduates from 65 nations have received an LLM in United States Legal Studies from Golden Gate. The program serves lawyers and law graduates from the United States and abroad. Most foreign law graduates come to gain a basic understanding of US law. Some concentrate in a particular area, while others prepare to take a bar examination in California or another state.

The LLM in US Legal Studies Program is flexible and designed to help the student meet individual goals. The program is open to full-time and part-time students, who must complete 24 units. Typically this takes two semesters but Golden Gate University School of Law is flexible and allows students to take up to 3 years if necessary. Graduates of US law schools generally choose all of their courses from the concentration area, but they are free to choose courses from the general law school course offerings. For course descriptions, visit our website at www.ggu.edu/law.

The LLM in US Legal Studies Program offers both US and foreign law school graduates opportunities to work in a US legal setting. To qualify for clerk positions in law firms, public interest agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, attorneys must have a basic grasp of US law and research methods. Courses, research internships, and the many clinical programs available—including the Law School’s in-house Environmental Law & Justice Clinic and Women’s Employment Rights Clinic—prepare international students for work in US legal settings. Our Law Career Services Office helps students to prepare resumes and identify employment goals, and we offer extensive bar preparation services. As a result, many international students work in paid law-related positions while in school and for a year after graduation.

“With the globalization of the economy, there’s just no way to be successful in the corporate world without having a firm grounding in international law. I thought the [LLM in USLS] degree would give me an edge.”

— Jasbir Khalsa (LLM USLS 06), Legal Counsel, Hitachi Data Systems
APPLICATION DEADLINES

▶ Foreign students:
  Fall admission (encouraged) July 1
  Spring admission November 1
▶ Domestic students:
  Rolling admissions for fall, spring, and summer

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

▶ 24 units
  Lawyers and law graduates from other nations are required to take the following courses
  ▶ Introduction to the United States Legal System
  ▶ Graduate Legal Writing and Research or Writing and Research I

CONCENTRATION AREAS

Students who wish to concentrate have a choice of six areas:
▶ Corporate and Commercial Law
▶ Immigration Law
▶ Labor & Employment Law
▶ Litigation & Lawyering Skills
▶ Property Development and Real Estate Law
▶ US Legal Practice

CORE FACULTY

▶ Leslie Burton, Professor and Director, LLM in US Legal Studies Program

DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR
LESLIE BURTON
A SUPPORTIVE, COLLEGIAL AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Ranked as one of the nation’s most diverse law schools by *US News and World Report*, and located in the legal and financial heart of San Francisco, Golden Gate University School of Law is the ideal place to further your legal education and hone your skills to practice effectively in today’s world. Whether you attend full-time or as a part-time working student, you’ll enjoy flexible scheduling, convenient public transit options, and personalized attention to tailor the program to suit your goals and interests.

You’ll be trained by full-time and adjunct professors with extensive practical lawyering experience. Foreign-educated students, in particular, will benefit from the law school’s comprehensive Legal Writing & Research Program, offering personalized training both inside and outside the classroom in developing these critical lawyering skills. Our bar exam services feature an extensive array of bar prep workshops and resources for the California Bar Exam.

CAREER SERVICES

The School of Law offers extensive career services, featuring staff with legal experience who specialize in career counseling for attorneys entering both the public and private sectors. Career services include:

▶ Career counseling (in-person and telephone appointments)
▶ Extensive library with books, journals, and magazines, as well as computer, copier, and fax access
▶ Free online job listings on LCSonline
▶ Résumé and cover letter review service
▶ Job search workshops and career development programs, including visits by noted alumni and other legal professionals, as well as group visits to firms, courthouses, and other local agencies and organizations
▶ Reciprocity agreements with other ABA law schools to utilize their Law Career Services Offices for job searches outside the Bay Area
▶ Networking opportunities within the vibrant Bay Area legal community

Law Career Services can also help you in securing internships while pursuing your graduate legal degree. For more information visit www.ggu.edu/law.
ACTIVITIES
Beyond the classroom, Golden Gate Law offers countless opportunities—some formal, others just fun—to network, socialize, and unwind—not only with fellow students, but faculty and alumni. Such programs include:

- Public Interest Law Foundation Auction
- Barrister’s Ball
- Student Bar Association Barbecue
- Law Student Bowling and Skating Nights
- Environmental Law Society Coastal Cleanups
- Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
Golden Gate Law is arguably the best-situated law school anywhere in the United States. Located in downtown San Francisco, it lies within blocks of major law firms and financial institutions, as well as city, state, and federal courthouses and government agencies.

The Golden Gate Law experience is not just informative and enlightening—it’s exciting, challenging, and rewarding. You can supplement classroom study and clinical training opportunities with cable car rides and day trips to the Pacific Ocean and redwood forests. You can enjoy the nearby historic cultural and culinary centers of Chinatown, Fisherman’s Wharf, the Mission District, and North Beach. World-class shopping at Union Square and San Francisco Giants baseball games at the spectacular AT&T ballpark are within short walks of campus. World-renowned fine arts venues and the magnificent Golden Gate Park are all easily accessible by public transportation.

Beyond San Francisco, students can take day or weekend trips to such destinations as:

- Yosemite National Park
- Lake Tahoe
- Napa and Sonoma Valley Wine Country
- Muir Woods
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- Monterey Bay and Carmel
- Big Sur

GENERAL ADMISSIONS INFORMATION
For information about admission, please visit our website at www.ggu.edu/law.

Fall semester classes are scheduled August through December, and spring semester classes are scheduled January through May. A summer session runs May through July, with most classes held in the evening.

GGU offers rolling admissions for all programs except for the SJD program, which only accepts applications for students to begin in the fall. Students from foreign countries who apply for the LLM in the US or International Legal Studies programs are encouraged to start in the fall.

Suggested application deadlines are April 1 for the summer term; July 1 for starting in the fall term; and November 1 for starting in spring. Late applications may be considered if program space permits. International students seeking visas to enter the United States should apply one month in advance of these deadlines to allow time for visa processing.

BASIC APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Application form
- Personal statement
- Law school transcripts

For details on other application requirements, go to the Law School website at www.ggu.edu/law.
EXPAND YOUR LAW PRACTICE WITH AN SJD OR LLM IN:

- Environmental Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Taxation
- US Legal Studies
- International Legal Studies

GRADUATE LAW PROGRAMS APPLICATION DEADLINES

- April 1 for starting in the summer (May)
- July 1 for starting in the fall (August)
- November 1 for starting in the spring (January)

TO FIND OUT MORE
Graduate Law Programs
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Phone: 415-442-7234
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E-mail: gradlaw@ggu.edu

STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO GOLDEN GATE LAW STUDENTS INCLUDE:

Ambassador Group
American Bar Association
  Law Student Division
American Constitution Society
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
Association for Communication, Sports, and Entertainment Law
Black Law Students Association
Corporate Asset-Management Property Investment and Tax Association (CAPITAL Group)

Environmental Law Society
Federalist Society
Intellectual Property Law Association
International Law Students Association
Latino/a Law Students Association
National Lawyers Guild
Public Interest Law Foundation
Queer Law Student Association
Women’s Law Association
Young Tax Lawyers

Golden Gate University School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).
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